

Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has been constituted as an attached office of the D/o Chemicals & Petrochemicals *vide* Resolution dated the 29th August, 1997 with the task of price fixation / revision and other related matters such as updating list of drugs under price control by inclusion and exclusion on the basis of the established criteria/ guidelines.

The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed / revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These drugs have been kept under price control on the basis of criteria mentioned in 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September, 1994.

The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 does not distinguish between life saving and other drugs. There are no specific norms or guidelines to determine as to which drug can be classified as life saving drugs. Every drug in general is considered useful in saving and prolonging of life.

Withdrawal of fertilizer subsidy

†451. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA. Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to withdraw subsidy on fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether Government have drawn any action plan to encourage the declining consumption of fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) and (d) The consumption of fertilizers has increased during the last three years as indicated below:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(LMT)

Fertilizers	Consumption		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Urea	197.67	206.65	222.95
DAP	56.24	62.56	67.63
MOP	18.41	24.06	27.31

Demand and supply of fertilizers

452. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the overall scenario in the country, regarding (quantities of) demand and supply of various chemical fertilizers, item wise, and gap thereof, fertilizer-wise;

(b) whether the said gap would impact the prices of chemical fertilizers and result in black marketing;

(c) if so, the assessment and remedial measures taken thereon;

(d) the assessment regarding impact of said shortfall on overall production of agricultural crops in the country and consequent loss to the farmers; and

(e) the steps Government intend to take to ameliorate the lot of the poor farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) Demand, availability and sale of fertilizers in the country during 2006-07, upto January' 07, was as follows:

01.04.2006 to 31.01.2007

(in lakh MT)

Product	Demand (Assessed before the season)	Availability	Sales
Urea	223.12	222.94	208.71
DAP	73.46	77.79	62.09
MOP	28.44	22.76	20.06

Availability of fertilisers has been higher than the sales.